11 an inclination to vomit. The pain of the bowels became so intense, that it was difficult to maintain the upright posture and it was necessary to remain drawn up in bed. The inclination to vomit recurred almost constantly, but emesis did not take place until it was mechanically induced by irritating the fauces. From 11 to 12 the discomfort of the experimenter was almost insupportable; but after that period, a rumbling of the bowels took place, followed by the discharge of considerable flatus, and a liquid offensive stool, subsequent to which considerable relief was experienced. At 3 o'clock a cup of coffee removed the remains of the nausea, and by evening all the unpleasant feelings had subsided.

On the 11th of August, four individuals took each a drachm of ergot sprinkled on bread and butter, a fifth took two drachms. The same symptoms nearly, were developed as in the preceding instances.

Professor Jörg also reports several experiments made with this article on dogs, cats, horses, cocks, and pigeons, showing that in large doses it occasions death, which was preceded by evidences of considerable pain, and by convulsions. A drachm and a half, repeated for several days, was found sufficient to kill pigeons, and also a common rooster. A young cat was destroyed by two drachms, repeated in the same way; a dog by an ounce and a half, and a second dog by an ounce.

From these results our author concludes that ergot is incapable of exercising any direct influence upon the uterus, and when the contractions of this organ are excited by its administration, it is in consequence of the decided impression it makes upon the alimentary canal, and especially its tendency to excite vomiting, which, when induced by any of the ordinary emetics, is liable to excite contractions of the uterine fibres. In reference to emetics our author remarks, that in cases of threatened abortion or miscarriage, he has found small doses of ipecacuanha, given so as to excite slight nausea, but never to the extent of inducing vomiting, one of the most effectual means of suspending uterine contraction, and thereby saving the ovum.

In regard to our author's opinion of the powers of ergot we can only say, that our own experience has led us to estimate them very differently. We feel convinced, that we have seen, in several instances, positive evidence of its property of acting directly upon the uterine fibre, and we are inclined to suspect that those who have failed to realise this effect, have used an inferior article. As, however, there are still many who are sceptical on the subject, further observations are necessary to decide the question. E. G.

Art. XVIII. *An Essay on the Origin and Nature of Tuberculous and Cancerous diseases. Read to the Medical Section of the British Association, on the 23d of August,* 1836. By Richard Carmichael, M. R. I. A., &c. Dublin, 1831, pp. 56.

This is a most interesting question, and one, the solution of which, may lead to important practical results. But whether the treatise before us is written in such a spirit as to facilitate the removal of the obscurity still hanging over the origin of tubercles, it seems to us, at least, to be doubtful. The question could only be resolved in a satisfactory manner by the most minute researches into the pathological anatomy of tubercles, and we are obliged to admit that the opinion of our author differs widely from that of the most accurate modern pathologists.

Mr. Carmichael returns to the opinion formerly broached, that tubercles are beings possessing a vitality independent of the animal in which they are lodged, except so far as that that animal affords them; 1st, the organic particles of which they are formed; and 2nd, the nutriment which they imbibe by their own innate powers, and thus they form the last link in the chain of the last class of animals, the entozoa.

The author is evidently not very familiar with all the appearances of tuberculous disease, for although he quotes Laennec, Carswell, and other pathologists, he draws his inferences almost exclusively from one form of tubercle; the rounded isolated tubercle, which is certainly the most frequent, but not the only variety of this morbid product. Now although the rounded granulations and tubercles found in the lungs and still more distinctly observed in the serous membranes, do certainly present many analogies of form and mode of developement with some of the lower classes of parasitic animals, we must inquire into the history of other forms of tuberculous matter. A minute study of the pathological anatomy of tubercles will then show (as we have verified in some hundred examinations) that in children, the most common form of tubercle is the infiltration of the tissue of an organ with the tuberculous matter. After a time it becomes an irregular amorphous mass of the usual opaque yellow colour. We have examined the same matter in adults, and in them also we have watched the gradual progress of a lung or of a lymphatic gland from the first stage, in which it is still soft, though filled with a semi-concrete transparent or yellowish fluid, infiltrating its whole structure as water does a sponge. In a more advanced degree the tissue of the lung is obliterated, and a tuberculous mass remains. Now, we certainly do no more admit the distinct vitality of this form of tubercle than we do that of the serous liquid of dropsy.

Scrofula is not of a tuberculous character, according to Mr. Carmichael. He uses the term in too wide a signification. The writers who contend for the identity of tubercle and scrofula, allude only to those cases of chronic alterations of the glands or other tissues, in which distinct tuberculous substance can be detected. But the term scrofula is frequently applied to other alterations of a much less decided character.

Cancer is supposed, and we believe with reason, by Dr. Carmichael, to be closely connected with tubercle. But what is that connexion? Ingenious as the essay certainly is, we fear that this question is left in the same doubt as that relative to the origin of tuberculous disease. W. W. G.

ART. XIX. *De Blepharoplastice. Dissertatio Inauguralis, Medico-Chirurgica.* Auctor JOANNES STAUB. 8vo. pp. 100. Berlin, 1835.

De Blepharoplastice, that is to say, according to the etymology of the term, (from Βλεφαρον, eyelid, and πλαστικη, formation); a dissertation on the formation of eyelids; not their physiological organization, but rather the remedying of their original and accidental defects by the skill of the surgeon. The satire of Butler has rendered almost every one aware of the operation first proposed by the Italian physician Tagliacozzi, and now, with certain modification actually pursued, for the restoration of deficient and dilapidated noses, and denominated by writers rhinoplastice. Although we are not aware that any surgeon has actually succeeded in supplying, by a similar operation, either a congenital absence or accidental loss of the eyelids, yet there are sufficient facts upon record to show that very extensive deformities of these organs, arising from numerous causes, may be effectually remedied by the knife, and the serious injury which the eye itself would eventually have sustained, had they been allowed to remain, prevented. Besides other deformities to which the eyelids are occasionally subject, it not unfrequently happens that they adhere to each other from birth, or become subsequently agglutinated from injuries or disease, thus preventing the eyes from being unclosed, or they may adhere to a greater or less extent to the ball of the eye; both eversion and inversion of the lids or of their tarsi are also of common occurrence, and even, though less frequently, the lids may be so de-